

December 25, 1860

It is Christmas morning and I am sitting here by the tree watching my family laugh with each other and admire each others gifts. I should feel joy as I watch my children sit around the tree joking with each other and sharing stories. Instead I feel sadness and fear.

December 21, 1860 will be a date I will remember forever. This is the date that my home state decided to leave United States. South Carolina is no longer part of the United States of America. I don't know how to feel about this. My husband is excited about the fact that we are no longer part of the Union. He has been complaining ever since Lincoln was elected in November. Michael is so enraged over the fact that Lincoln was elected president without a single vote from the south.

Michael brought home a notice yesterday called "The Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union." He and our three boys sat around the dining room table discussing what it said. I listened in with half an ear while I listened to Elizabeth play the piano. I heard them mention that the fugitive slave law that was passed as part of the Compromise of 1820 wasn't being enforced and that the north does not approve of our belief that slaves are property. My oldest boy, Johnny seems to be the angriest over the amount of slaves who have been helped to escape their masters here in the south. As I wrote before my husband is angriest over the election of Abraham Lincoln. I hope that the leaders of my state know what they are doing.

I am afraid. What if we are the only state to leave the United States? What if the United States doesn't accept the fact that we are no longer a member. What if they send troops down here. What will happen to my family? My husband and boys are willing to do whatever is necessary to support our state. I am afraid that this decision of our great state is going to tear my family apart. I know that I should be happy on this great day. My family is sitting around the Christmas tree and my husband is sitting by my side. He gave me a beautiful neckless for Christmas and a new leather journal. I should be on top of the world and instead I am afraid of the future.

This is a sketch of the flag that was created for our wonderful succession.

